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2 definitions found for To back the field

From The Collaborative International Dictionary of English v.0.48 :

Back \Back\ (b[a^]k), v. t. [imp. & p. p. Backed (b[a^]kt); p. pr. & vb. n. Backing.] [1913 Webster]
1. To get upon the back of; to mount. [1913 Webster]

I will back him [a horse] straight. --Shak.
[1913 Webster]

2. To place or seat upon the back. [R.] [1913 Webster]

Great Jupiter, upon his eagle backed,
Appeared to me. --Shak.
[1913 Webster]

3. To drive or force backward; to cause to retreat or recede; as, to back oxen. [1913 Webster]

4. To make a back for; to furnish with a back; as, to back books. [1913 Webster]

5. To adjoin behind; to be at the back of. [1913 Webster]

A garden . . . with a vineyard backed. --Shak.
[1913 Webster]

The chalk cliffs which back the beach. --Huxley.

[1913 Webster]

6. To write upon the back of; as, to back a letter; to indorse; as, to back a note or legal document.
 [1913 Webster]

7. To support; to maintain; to second or strengthen by aid or influence; as, to back a friend. "The Parliament would be backed by the people." --Macaulay.
 [1913 Webster]

Have still found it necessary to back and fortify their laws with rewards and punishments. --South.

[1913 Webster]

The mate backed the captain manfully. --Blackw. Mag.
 [1913 Webster]

8. To bet on the success of; -- as, to back a race horse.
 [1913 Webster]

To back an anchor (Naut.), to lay down a small anchor ahead of a large one, the cable of the small one being fastened to the crown of the large one.

To back the field, in horse racing, to bet against a particular horse or horses, that some one of all the other horses, collectively designated "the field", will win.

To back the oars, to row backward with the oars.

To back a rope, to put on a preventer.

To back the sails, to arrange them so as to cause the ship to move astern.

To back up, to support; to sustain; as, to back up one's friends.

To back a warrant (Law), is for a justice of the peace, in the county where the warrant is to be executed, to sign or indorse a warrant, issued in another county, to apprehend an offender.

To back water (Naut.), to reverse the action of the oars, paddles, or propeller, so as to force the boat or ship backward.

[1913 Webster]

From The Collaborative International Dictionary of English v.0.48:

field \field\ (f[=e]ld), n. [OE. feld, fild, AS. feld; akin to D. veld, G. feld, Sw. f[=a]umlt, Dan. felt, Icel. fold field of grass, AS. folde earth, land, ground, OS. folda.]

1. Cleared land; land suitable for tillage or pasture; cultivated ground; the open country.
 [1913 Webster]

2. A piece of land of considerable size; esp., a piece inclosed for tillage or pasture.
 [1913 Webster]

Fields which promise corn and wine. --Byron.

[1913 Webster]

3. A place where a battle is fought; also, the battle itself.
[1913 Webster]

In this glorious and well-foughten field. --Shak.
[1913 Webster]

What though the field be lost? --Milton.
[1913 Webster]

4. An open space; an extent; an expanse. Esp.:
(a) Any blank space or ground on which figures are drawn or projected.
(b) The space covered by an optical instrument at one view; as, wide-field binoculars.
[1913 Webster + PJC]

Without covering, save yon field of stars.
--Shak.
[1913 Webster]

Ask of yonder argent fields above. --Pope.
[1913 Webster]

5. (Her.) The whole surface of an escutcheon; also, so much of it is shown unconcealed by the different bearings upon it. See Illust. of **Fess**, where the field is represented as gules (red), while the fess is argent (silver).
[1913 Webster]

6. An unrestricted or favorable opportunity for action, operation, or achievement; province; room.
[1913 Webster]

Afforded a clear field for moral experiments.
--Macaulay.
[1913 Webster]

7. (Sports) An open, usually flat, piece of land on which a sports contest is played; a playing field; as, a football field; a baseball field.

Syn: playing field, athletic field, playing area.
[PJC]

8. Specifically: (Baseball) That part of the grounds reserved for the players which is outside of the diamond; -- called also **outfield**.
[1913 Webster]

9. A geographic region (land or sea) which has some notable feature, activity or valuable resource; as, the diamond fields of South Africa; an oil field; a gold field; an ice field.
[WordNet 1.6]

10. A facility having an airstrip where airplanes can take off and land; an airfield.

Syn: airfield, landing field, flying field, aerodrome.
[WordNet 1.6]

11. A collective term for all the competitors in any outdoor

contest or trial, or for all except the favorites in the betting.
[1913 Webster]

12. A branch of knowledge or sphere of activity; especially, a learned or professional discipline; as, she's an expert in the field of geology; in what field did she get her doctorate?; they are the top company in the field of entertainment.

Syn: discipline, subject, subject area, subject field, field of study, study, branch of knowledge.
[WordNet 1.6]

Note: Within the master text files of this electronic dictionary, where a word is used in a specific sense in some specialized field of knowledge, that field is indicated by the tags: () preceding that sense of the word.
[PJC]

13. A location, usually outdoors, away from a studio or office or library or laboratory, where practical work is done or data is collected; as, anthropologists do much of their work in the field; the paleontologist is in the field collecting specimens. Usually used in the phrase

in the field.
[WordNet 1.6]

14. (Physics) The influence of a physical object, such as an electrically charged body, which is capable of exerting force on objects at a distance; also, the region of space over which such an influence is effective; as, the earth's gravitational field; an electrical field; a magnetic field; a force field.
[PJC]

15. (Math.) A set of elements within which operations can be defined analogous to the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on the real numbers; within such a set of elements addition and multiplication are commutative and associative and multiplication is distributive over addition and there are two elements 0 and 1; a commutative division ring; as, the set of all rational numbers is a field.
[WordNet 1.6]

Note: Field is often used adjectively in the sense of belonging to, or used in, the fields; especially with reference to the operations and equipments of an army during a campaign away from permanent camps and fortifications. In most cases such use of the word is sufficiently clear; as, field battery; field fortification; field gun; field hospital, etc. A field geologist, naturalist, etc., is one who makes investigations or collections out of doors. A survey uses a field book for recording field notes, i.e., measurement, observations, etc., made in field work (outdoor operations). A farmer or planter employs field hands, and may use a field roller or a field derrick. Field sports are hunting, fishing, athletic games, etc.
[1913 Webster]

Coal field (Geol.) See under Coal.

Field artillery, light ordnance mounted on wheels, for the use of a marching army.

Field basil (Bot.), a plant of the Mint family ((Calamintha Acinos); -- called also basil thyme.

Field colors (Mil.), small flags for marking out the positions for squadrons and battalions; camp colors.

Field cricket (Zool.), a large European cricket ((Gryllus campestris)), remarkable for its loud notes.

Field day.

- (a) A day in the fields.
- (b) (Mil.) A day when troops are taken into the field for instruction in evolutions. --Farrow.
- (c) A day of unusual exertion or display; a gala day.

Field driver, in New England, an officer charged with the driving of stray cattle to the pound.

Field+duck+(Zool.), +the+little+bustard+((*Otis+tetraz*">Field duck (Zool.), th found in Southern Europe.

Field glass. (Optics)

- (a) A binocular telescope of compact form; a lorgnette; a race glass.
- (b) A small achromatic telescope, from 20 to 24 inches long, and having 3 to 6 draws.
- (c) See Field lens.

Field lark. (Zool.)

- (a) The skylark.
- (b) The tree pipit.

Field lens (Optics), that one of the two lenses forming the eyepiece of an astronomical telescope or compound microscope which is nearer the object glass; -- called also field glass.

Field+madder+(Bot.), +a+plant+((*Sherardia+arvensis*">Field madder (Bot.), a pl dyeing.

Field marshal (Mil.), the highest military rank conferred in the British and other European armies.

Field officer (Mil.), an officer above the rank of captain and below that of general.

Field officer's court (U.S.Army), a court-martial consisting of one field officer empowered to try all cases, in time of war, subject to jurisdiction of garrison and regimental courts. --Farrow.

Field plover (Zool.), the black-bellied plover ((*Charadrius squatarola*)); also sometimes applied to the Bartramian sandpiper ((*Bartramia longicauda*)).

Field spaniel (Zool.), a small spaniel used in hunting small game.

Field sparrow. (Zool.)

(a) A small American sparrow (*(Spizella pusilla)*).
(b) The hedge sparrow. [Eng.]

Field staff (Mil.), a staff formerly used by gunners to hold a lighted match for discharging a gun.

Field vole (Zool.), the European meadow mouse.

Field of ice, a large body of floating ice; a pack.

Field, or Field of view, in a telescope or microscope, the entire space within which objects are seen.

Field magnet. see under Magnet.

Magnetic field. See Magnetic.

To back the field, or To bet on the field. See under

Back, v. t. -- To keep the field.

- (a) (Mil.) To continue a campaign.
- (b) To maintain one's ground against all comers.

To lay against the field or To back against the field, to bet on (a horse, etc.) against all comers.

To take the field (Mil.), to enter upon a campaign.
(1913 Webster)



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